ABSTRACT

CABLING SYSTEM

A system for managing a structured cabling system, together with the attached equipment and devices, utilises a hand-held scanner to record moves, adds and changes by scanning machine-readable identifiers (such as bar-code labels) attached to structured cabling components, including but not limited to active and passive communications equipment, cross-connects, patch cords, backbone connections and peripheral equipment. The system records or audits cross-connects by scanning the label of each port and cable in a cross-connect and correlating the cable identifiers to infer the connections. Complete end-to-end connections ('channels') can be inferred in the same way, and the system provides a mechanism to filter the display of channels to provide the most relevant details, including display of only frequently changed components, incomplete channels and permanent patches ('patch by exception'). The system can also provide a mechanism to record channel constraints to define which communications protocols ('applications') can run over which categories of cabling ('category'), which combinations of categories are allowed, and what the maximum channel length is for a particular application and category. The system can provide warnings upon connection of components or completion of a channel.